

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented process for informing a patient of the risk of undergoing a treatment; said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) gathering semi-static data relating to contraindications to and complications associated with the treatment;
 - b) gathering dynamic data relating to experienced contraindications to and complications associated with the treatment, said dynamic data comprising information about the treatment conduct, its result, and patient response over time;
 - c) from the gathered semi-static data and dynamic data, creating a rule-based algorithm for calculating the risks of undergoing the treatment;
 - f) acquiring relevant data of an individual patient;
 - g) calculating a customized personal risk assessment for the individual patient;
 - h) presenting the customized personal risk assessment to the patient.
2. The process of claim 1, wherein the step of creating a rule-based algorithm for calculating the risks of undergoing the treatment comprises:

periodically updating both the semi-static data and dynamic data.
3. The process of claim 1, wherein the step of creating a rule-based algorithm for calculating the risks of undergoing the treatment comprises:

recursively processing the rules governing the risk assessment relating to any treatment based on periodic updates to one or both of the semi-static and dynamic data.

4. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step:
formulating text material in the form of sentences that list risk factors and outcome information for display to the patient based on information gathered in the process.

5. The process of claim 4, further comprising the step:
creating a calculus that associates text sentences with the risk information to be presented to the patient.

6. The process of claim 1, wherein the step of gathering dynamic data relating to experienced contraindications to and complications associated with the treatment includes:

identifying a particular treatment provider, and
incorporating data relating to the treatment provider.

7. The process of claim 6, wherein the step of incorporating data relating to the treatment provider further comprises:

gathering and including data on the treatment provider's outcome history associated with the treatment.

8. The process of claim 7, wherein the step of incorporating data relating to the treatment provider further comprises:

gathering and including data on the treatment provider's complication history in providing the subject treatment.

9. The process of claim 1, wherein the step of gathering dynamic data relating to experienced contraindications to and complications associated with the treatment includes:

gathering information about the pre-operative and post-operative care of the treatment provider's patients.

10. A computer-implemented process for informing a patient of the risk of undergoing a treatment, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) gathering semi-static data relating to contraindications to and complications associated with the treatment;
- b) acquiring relevant data of an individual patient;
- c) calculating a customized personal risk assessment for the individual patient;
- d) presenting to the patient an individualized risk assessment based on the gathered data.

11. The process of claim 10, further comprising the step:
printing the individualized risk assessment as an informed consent form.

12. The process of claim 10, further comprising the step:

gathering performance data relating to a particular treatment provider, including information on treatment outcomes for patients treated by that provider.

13. The process of claim 12 further comprising the step:
from the gathered semi-static data, the patient data, and treatment provider data,
creating a rule-based algorithm for calculating the risks of undergoing the treatment.

14. The process of claim 13 further comprising the step:
recursively processing the rules governing the risk assessment relating to any
treatment based on periodic updates to the semi-static data, the patient data, and provider
data.